

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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FOR MICHAEL B SMITH CHIEF TEXTILE NEGOTIATORS

FOL BRIDGETOWN 0585 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA FEB 28,
1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD,BB

SUBJECT: TEXTILES (WORK GLOVES)

REF: STATE 040442

1. DCM DISCUSSED POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES FACING BARBADIAN
EXPORTS OF WORK GLOVES FEB. 23 WITH DR. STEPHEN EMTAGE,
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

2. DR. EMTAGE GRASPED NATURE OF PROBLEM IMMEDIATELY. AT
DCM'S SUGGESTION HE LATER SPOKE ABOUT IT WITH MR. SAMEUL FLASH,
AN AMERICAN DIRECTOR AND PART-OWNER OF BARBADOS-BASED
TRIDENT GLOVES VISITING BARBADOS LAST WEEK FROM BOSTON.
EMBASSY HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED TRIDENT IT WOULD APPROACH GOVT.
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3. MR. GLASH SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLAINED TO DCM THAT HIS
TALK WITH DR. EMTAGE WENT WELL. HE TOLD DR. EMTAGE THAT
TRIDENT, WHICH MAKES LEATHER AND VINYL, AS WELL AS COTTON
INDUSTRIAL GLOVES, EXPORTED ABOUT 300,000 DOZEN PAIRS OF
COTTON GLOVES TO USA IN 1977. MR. FLASH WOULD EXPECT THAT
IN "NORMAL" CIRCUMSTANCES (I.E., IN ABSENCE OF QUANTITATIVE

RESTRICTIONS) HIS EXPORTS TO USA WOULD CONTINUE GROWING. REASON IS THAT MOST EXPORTED COTTON GLOVES ARE OF INEXPENSIVE THROW-AWAY VARIETY SOLD IN DRUG-STORES FOR USE IN APPLYING MEDICINES TO TREAT DERMATITIS. COST FACTORS ARE SUCH THAT THESE GLOVES MUST BE MASS PRODUCED. MR. FOASH DOUBTS THAT HIS PARTICULAR KIND OF GLOVES ARE CAUSING MARKET DISRUPTION, BUT HE TOOK CAREFUL ACCOUNT OF EMBASSY'S PRESENTATION, AS DID DR. EMBTAGE, AND BOTH SEEMED SENSITIVE TO POLITICAL AND MARKET IMPLICATIONS.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT AS RESULT OF EMBASSY'S APPROACH BARBADOS GOVERNMENT AND TRIDENT GLOVES WILL CONTINUE MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS IN EFFORT AVOID PROBLEM OF FORMAL RESTRAINTS IF POSSIBLE. AT SAME TIME, BARBADOS GOVERNMENT WISHES INFORM ITSELF FULLY ABOUT NATURE OF BILATERAL TEXTILE RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WHICH USA HAS ALREADY NEGOTIATED WITH HONG KONG, JAPAN, KOREA, REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND HAITI.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR BARBADOS GOVERNMENT, PLEASE AIRPOUCH SOONEST COPIES OF U.S. TEXTILE RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES CITED PARA 4, MARKED ATTENTION DCM. EDDY UNQUOTE
VANCE

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